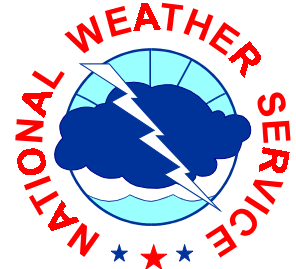




**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
WESTERN REGION
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH**



JANUARY 22, 2002

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

On January 14, 2002, at the age of 40, the region lost a fine person and an excellent meteorologist. Dennis Rodgers at WFO Salt Lake passed away after a two-year battle with cancer. He was a graduate of Penn State University. Dennis joined the Air Force in 1984 and completed Officer training School. He was stationed in Aurora, Colorado, and Hill Air Force Base in Utah. In 1990, Dennis graduated from the University of Utah with a Masters Degree in Meteorology. He started his Weather Service career in 1992 at Olympia, Washington and then moved to Salt Lake. Dennis is survived by his wife Michelle and two sons, David 7 and Evan 4. Dennis loved being a weatherman and from the time he was a small child, he was always looking at the sky. Dennis will be missed! Condolences may be sent to Michelle Rodgers:

3886 West Beth Park Drive
Salt Lake City, UT 84120

DEPUTY REGIONAL DIRECTOR

The Olympic Winter Games are just around the corner and preparations continue to provide meteorological support for the Games. The WFO will be hosting a Weather Operations Center where NWS meteorologists and KSL meteorologists will work side by side to produce forecasts for the Games. The WFO will provide a suite of routine products, and during the Olympics and Paralympics the added staff will prepare a Hazardous Winter Weather Potential Outlook twice per day. The purpose of the product will be to provide more specific forecasts along the transportation corridors to the five outdoor venues. The forecasts will be used by athletes, spectators, Olympic officials, transportation planners, and security to get people and competitors safely to and from the venues. The NWS is also supporting an FX-Net system so venue forecasters and NWS forecasters will be looking at the same data. The team of private meteorologists from KSL Television will provide specific forecasts for each of the outdoor venues. Those forecasts will be closely coordinated with NWS forecasts to ensure a consistent product. KSL will also provide forecasts for the opening and closing ceremonies and brief Salt Lake Organizing Committee members twice a day. The University of Utah will provide

support to both the NWS and KSL meteorologists. The University will run a high-resolution analysis model, run a 4km forecast model, and provide access to the Meso-West data network. They will also provide students to take meteorological observations during the outdoor events. We are trying to show that the government, private sector, and academia can work together to provide an excellent service to the 2002 Winter Games. A poster that outlines the partnership and the role of each partner will be sent to each office.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

STATEMENT OF THE WEEK: This week's statement of the week is an outlook statement issued by lead forecaster Jay Albrecht of WFO Seattle-Tacoma. Jay does a good job highlighting expected wet and cool weather with a short and straightforward statement. Good work Jay.

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SPECIAL - WEATHER STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SEATTLE WA
345 AM PST FRI JAN 18 2002

...EXPECT HEAVY MOUNTAIN SNOW AT TIMES TONIGHT THROUGH EARLY NEXT WEEK...

...COOL...WET AND OCCASIONAL WINDY CONDITIONS ARE EXPECTED IN THE LOWLANDS...

A SERIES OF PACIFIC FRONTS WILL MOVE ACROSS WESTERN WASHINGTON THROUGH THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK.

THE FIRST FRONT WILL BRING LOWLAND RAIN AND MOUNTAIN SNOW THIS AFTERNOON THROUGH SATURDAY AFTERNOON. 24 HOUR SNOWFALL TOTALS OF 8 TO 15 INCHES ARE LIKELY ABOVE 1,500 FEET.

IN THE INTERIOR LOWLANDS THIS AFTERNOON...RAIN MAY LOCALLY BEGIN AS SNOW OR MIXED RAIN AND SNOW. NO SNOW ACCUMULATIONS ARE EXPECTED...AND PRECIPITATION WILL QUICKLY TURN TO ALL RAIN.

A STRONGER AND WETTER PACIFIC FRONT WILL MOVE THROUGH THE AREA LATE SATURDAY NIGHT AND SUNDAY. HEAVY SNOWFALL ACCUMULATIONS OF A FOOT OR TWO IS POSSIBLE IN THE MOUNTAINS ABOVE 2,000 TO 2,500 FEET. THE LOWLANDS WILL SEE COOL...RAINY...AND WINDY CONDITIONS.

COMPUTER MODELS INDICATE THAT ADDITIONAL FRONTAL SYSTEMS SUNDAY NIGHT AND AGAIN TOWARD THE MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK WILL BRING EVEN MORE

HEAVY MOUNTAIN SNOW AND LOWLAND RAIN.

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ALBRECHT

Fire Weather Program: On January 15, Scott Birch facilitated a California fire weather training and transition meeting in Sacramento. The main emphasis of the meeting was Western Region fire weather transition policy since all the WFOs serving California will assume fire weather responsibility in 2003. The meeting was attended by Roger Williams, Dennis Gettmann and Frederic Bunnag (WFO Medford); Nancy Dean and Jeff Tonkin (WFO Eureka); Jane Hollingsworth, Roger Lamoni and Rhett Milne (WFO Reno); Elizabeth Morse and Basil Newmerzhycky (WFO Sacramento); Bob Diaz and John Ertl (WFO Monterey); Steve Mendenhall and Cindy Bean (WFO Hanford); Todd Morris and Joe Sirard (WFO Los Angeles); Larry Jensen and Jim Harrison (WFO Las Vegas); Tony Haffer and Bob Berkovitz (WFO Phoenix); and Dan Keeton and Ted Mackechnie (WFO San Diego).

Annual WCM Report to WSH: Western Region WCMs recently submitted their annual report of coordination and awareness activities in their respective CWAs for FY01. The figures show WFO outreach and interaction with customers and partners are flourishing. Some figures of note are:

- * WR has 10,776 spotters, living in 291 of WR's 294 counties, trained to report severe storms, floods/flash floods, winter storms, etc. In the past year, 3,281 new spotters were recruited;
- * 804 public safety presentations were given to 28,635 people;
- * There were 57 StormReady recognitions and one (the Nation's first) TsunamiReady recognition;
- * There were 1,830 face-to-face media contacts, which include NWS visits to media, media visits to NWS, and media attendance at NWS workshops;
- * 23 of 24 WFOs have dedicated NAWAS links to their emergency managers, 20 of 24 have dedicated radio systems links.

StormReady and TsunamiReady Update: So far in FY02, there have been 18 StormReady and TsunamiReady recognitions in Western Region. Most recently, Bingham County, Power County, and associated communities, were recognized in southeast Idaho on January 3 by WFO Pocatello. Long Beach, Washington was recognized for being both StormReady and TsunamiReady by WFO Portland, Oregon on January 10. This was only the second TsunamiReady recognition in the CONUS; both are in Washington.

E-WARN Beta Test: WFO Salt Lake City's test of sending warning product headlines to local emergency management officials via email will soon be tested at nine other Western Region WFOs. The E-warn dissemination method allows emergency managers to have "portable" access to the status of NWS warnings by receiving email messages on their cell phones, pagers, and PDAs. WCM Dave Toronto spearheaded this effort in Salt Lake City. Dave will travel to Pocatello, ID, January 31, to install and test the software. Dave intends to send his E-warn documentation and instructions to the other beta test sites after the test in Pocatello (in between his obligations to the Olympics!). The other E-warn test sites are Billings, Glasgow, Great Falls, Missoula, Portland, Medford, Monterey, and San Diego.

HYDROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

RFC Operations Team: The RFC Operations Team is requesting input from WFO and RFC operational staff. The team was chartered by the NWS Corporate Board to propose an operational structure for RFCs to help them best meet NWS customer needs. They're looking for opportunities to improve the NWS hydrologic services program and need your insight. Their website, located at http://207.173.99.100/cnrfc/rfc_ops/index.html, contains background information on their effort, some preliminary findings, and an opportunity to share your experiences, observations, views, and ideas. The survey will be available through February 15, 2002 and should only take a few minutes to complete. All responses are provided anonymously and this activity has been coordinated with the NWSEO. Western Region encourages and supports your participation.

AHPS/ESP Training Set for Eastern Montana: The first of a series of AHPS/ESP training sessions to be conducted in Western Region has been scheduled for the week of March 18. This workshop will be held in Billings, Montana for the WFOs in eastern Montana that are served by the Missouri Basin RFC (MBRFC). The training will be conducted by MBRFC and WRH/HSD personnel. Similar workshops for the rest of the Western Region WFOs will be scheduled in the near future.

Plans for a National Hydro Program Managers Conference: NWS Headquarters is making plans for the first National Hydro Program Managers Conference, tentatively the week of November 4, 2002 in New Orleans. This conference is intended for all WFO Service Hydrologists, Senior Service Hydrologists, and Hydro Focal Points.

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

University Assignment Program - Call for Proposals: This program offers opportunities for both full-time and part-time training

assignments in job- or career-related study at an accredited educational facility. It enables employees to keep abreast of advances in science and technology and other innovations within their occupational fields. In addition, the program provides an opportunity for all employees to learn new skills or develop and improve abilities needed in current or future positions. It should be used only when the needed set of knowledge or skills requires a comprehensive study program which:

1. Cannot be accomplished by a series of unconnected short-term courses.
2. The time span for the acquisition of the knowledge or skills indicates a concentrated or long-term program is most feasible.
3. The set of knowledge or skills is so complex, so new, or so unique it could not be readily obtained on a short-term basis.

The full-time University Assignment Program (UAP) option usually provides training for a period of one academic year (two semesters) in a non-Government facility, generally a college or university. All courses must be completed by the date specified on the study proposal for training, and employees must take at least the minimum course load requirement for full-time students as determined by the educational institution.

Deadlines:

All study proposals and associated application materials must be received at the following locations by the dates established below:

Regional/Office Headquarters	February 28, 2002
OCWWS Training Division	March 14, 2002

Information: The full set of instructions was sent to each office via email. Please contact your MIC for more information or WR/SSD.

Reminder - COMET Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) Module: The NWP PDS is a required training module for all WR forecasters. This includes all Forecast Office meteorologists and interns, CWSU meteorologists, and the River Forecast Center HAS positions.

Due Date for completion is March 31, 2002.

The on-line Web course can be found at:

<http://meted.ucar.edu/nwp/course>

In completing the NWP Distance Learning Course, you can either choose to go through each element of each module (recommended for interns or others unfamiliar with NWP or those highly interested in the topic), or you may choose to go through the minimum path required for each module. The minimum path has been defined, with guidance from NWS personnel, as the core material experienced forecasters will find most beneficial in refreshing their

understanding of NWP. The minimum required sections and pages are highlighted within each of the modules.

Upon completing the course, you will be asked to take a short on-line exam based on the example questions in the course modules. Successful (75 percent passing score) participants will be issued a certificate, and an email will be sent to the local SOO or MIC.

The modules build upon information presented in the previous modules. We recommend you complete the modules in a short time frame, within 2-4 weeks, if possible. However, because the modules can be demanding, do not try to take more than one module per day. The total time to complete the course will likely fall between 10 and 16 hours.

New Technical Attachment: This week's Technical Attachment (TA) is entitled "The Rocky Mountain Front Wind Storm of January 4, 2001: A Case Study," and is authored by Ken Pomeroy, Weather Forecast Office, Great Falls, Montana. The TA is located on the National Weather Service web site at <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov>, under "Technical Attachments."

SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION

Portable IT Device and Property Security: Please ensure that all NWS Government portable IT devices (Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), laptop computers, etc.) are secure. Not only are we required to secure laptops/PDAs physically, but we are also required to keep the resident applications on them secure. For example, laptops configured to use Procomm for ASOS remote access require that all passwords be entered manually at the time of each access. Automated scripts on portable devices that enter passwords cannot be used because they present a very serious risk if the portable laptop or PDA is stolen. As well, do not store sensitive access codes (FAA cypher lock codes) on these portable devices unless encryption is used. Again, the purpose of this requirement is to make sure that sensitive information does not fall into the wrong hands. When laptops are being transported, do not check these items as checked baggage, rather, carry them with you.

Additionally, the NWS WR has recently seen a sharp increase in vehicle vandalism, property theft, and nefarious activity. All personnel need to take every action to reduce risk. As an example, a WR WFO had a vehicle broken into (lock was punched out with a screwdriver) while parked at the WFO. The thieves helped themselves to laptops, radios, PDAs, equipment, remote site keys, etc. Consequently, FAA and airport facilities (airport tower access codes, gate access codes, remote site keys and runway access gate codes) were compromised when the portable IT devices were stolen.

Bottom line(s): Please be alert, aware of the risks, secure all Government property prudently, and remove/encrypt sensitive information from portable IT devices.

EMRS Meeting: WRH is hosting a national Emergency Management Reporting System (EMRS) meeting this week in Salt Lake City. Personnel from NWSH and the six NWS regions will be attending. The meeting agenda includes

discussion on EMRS documentation, status of the former WSOM A-14 (EMRS Policy), status of the former EHB-4 (EMRS), updates to A-26 FORM for "Type Maintenance" and "Action Taken Codes", EMRS Linkage to USOS and AOMC to EMRS trouble tickets.

Observing Program Workshop: Systems Operations Division will be hosting an observing program workshop with participation from all WR WFOs. It will be held April 30 through May 2, 2002. Agenda items for the April 29 Observing Program Conference are due to region by February 19, 2002.

ASOS - Processor Upgrade, Dewpoint Replacement Sensor, Software Version 2.6A: The dewpoint replacement sensor was installed at Stanley (SNT), ID on January 23, 2002.

The Processor Upgrade will be installed at two additional test sites this week, Boise, ID and Aurora, OR. Boise is a non-ADAS Aviation site with NWS observers. Aurora is an ADAS communicating site.

If the processor upgrade goes smoothly at Boise this week, then the dewpoint replacement sensor will be installed next week at Boise.

Software version 2.6A was tested at an ADAS communicating ASOS and all the observations, including specials, were transmitted correctly. Version 2.6A will be the software installed at both Boise and Aurora.

RADAR: The Open Radar Product Generator (ORPG) will be installed at WFOs San Joaquin Valley and Sacramento the week of January 21 and is scheduled to be installed at WFOs San Francisco and Eureka the week of January 28, 2002.

Correction: Wiretap for Dual-thread Radars: Wiretap for remote maintenance access to dual-thread Radars will not be installed concurrently with the ORPG installation. *Yuma, AZ has not had wiretap installed to date.* The ROC has not received the hardware for the wiretap. The hardware is scheduled to arrive in February. Reno, NV will be a "kit proofing" site to test out the installation kit and instructions for the wiretap.

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

POSITION SELECTIONS

GERALD DEIOTTE has been selected for the NEXRAD ET position at the WFO in Monterey, California

MICHAEL PROUD has been selected for the Forecaster position at the WFO in Boise, Idaho

WALTER JAMESON has been selected for the NEXRAD ET position at the WFO in Phoenix, Arizona